

# ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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## **Proceedings of Congress, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.**

### SENATE.

TUESDAY, JULY 14.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, the Committee on Naval Affairs was discharged from the consideration of the petitions of THOMAS GOIN, of TIMOTHY WINN, of POLLY CLOUGH, and of JOHN JUDGE.

Mr. W. also, from the same committee, made adverse reports on the bill to regulate the pay of masters of the navy.

### DEFENCES OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. PIERCE, in behalf of the Committee on Military Affairs, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of "the memorial of Gen. EDMUND P. GAINES, proposing a system of national defence, and praying its adoption by Congress." And also from "the memorial of the military convention, holden at Norwich, Vermont, praying for the revision and alteration of the system of military defences of the United States."

Mr. P. said the inquiry had been repeatedly made, "What are the views of the committee upon this subject?" and before the question was taken upon the motion just submitted, he would briefly respond to that interrogatory, presuming, however, to speak for no member but himself.

The present session, it was well known, had, for several reasons, not been a season propitious for the discussion and adoption of any improvements in the plan of our national defences. This had been sufficiently manifested by the character of the debate that took place some days since, upon one branch of the general question—the reorganization and discipline of the militia. But, although the committee had not deemed it expedient at this time to present a report, it had been deferred from no want of a deep conviction of its importance. He would rejoice if the public mind could be effectually directed to the subject; and he hoped that he might at least be able to call the attention of Senators to the memorials, which (although parts of each would doubtless be regarded as extravagant) contained, nevertheless, practical views and suggestions well worthy of consideration in connection with the very important measures of which they respectively treated—measures, he would take occasion to remark, that had been discussed with great ability, in the report of a board of officers, communicated to the Senate by the President, in April last. He hoped the subject would be taken up at an early day in the next session, and be so deliberately and definitively acted upon, as to give to our mode and means of defence, efficiency, uniformity, and the advantage of a settled system. We could now do it with the light of enlarged experience, and the benefit of many experiments made at the expense of others. In this age of progress, and in this land of invention, and almost boundless resources, we were not the people to stand still. We had not stood still. But while individual and private enterprise had kept pace, in all the various pursuits of life, with the best improvements of the day, it must be admitted, considering our position upon the globe—the immense extent of our maritime frontier—the mode in which we must be assailed, if ever successfully assailed, by a foreign foe—the easy access

to our most commanding harbors—the vast importance and exposed condition of our great commercial cities, especially since the successful application of steam power to ocean navigation—that we had been singularly regardless of the advances and improvements which, in other countries, especially in France and England, had, within the last few years, materially changed, and were now rapidly changing the character of defensive and offensive operations, both on the land and the sea. We should not shut our eyes to these things. We should not remain unmindful of changes in the art and practice of war, exceeded in importance only by those which followed the discovery of gunpowder in the fourteenth century.

There were some things about the military defences of this country, which might be considered as settled, in relation to which there could be little if any difference of opinion. For instance, he regarded it as certain, that no large standing army was ever to be maintained here in time of peace, while our free institutions remain unshaken. In this we differed entirely from those nations with whom, from our position and political relations, we were in the greatest danger of being drawn into collision. It was equally certain, in his judgment, that the stationary fortifications, in the best condition, with abundance of material, and well manned, would prove wholly inadequate to the defence even of our large commercial cities. It must be regarded as not less clear, that no foreign power could ever embark in the Quixotic enterprise of conquering this country, unless its Constitution should be first trampled in the dust by its own children. Such a project could never be soberly contemplated, he might safely assert, while we were a united people. During the Revolution—in the weakness of our infancy—the invaders could scarcely command more territory than they were able immediately to occupy. The possession of any particular place, however important in itself, would be of little consequence, as bearing upon the ultimate result of a conflict. We had no great metropolis like Paris, which, in possession of one power or another, could control the country; and, from the nature of our institutions, and the extent of our territory, we never could have. The leading purposes of an enemy, therefore, would be, by the celerity and boldness of his movements on our coast, to keep up a constant alarm; to harass and cut off our commerce; to destroy our naval depôts and public works; and if possible, to lay our great commercial cities under contribution or in ashes. It was against prompt movements and vigorous exertions for objects like these, for which we should prepare and provide. Our fortresses were not to be invested and made the objects of long, regular siege; they were not, for reasons to which he had before adverted, of sufficient consequence in this country, whatever might be the case in others, possessing limited territory and different situation. In the nature of things, this would not take place, and it need not be contemplated in their construction. France and England had, and always must maintain, large and well appointed standing armies; they were the indispensable appendages of regal power and dominion, without which no monarch in Europe could retain his crown a single year. They had not only them, but they had now the means of planting them upon our shores; nay, of quartering them in the heart of our cities, before we could set in order

our insufficient and now deserted fortresses, or call into the field any effective force, organized as our militia at present was; indeed in some of the States there was no organization whatever; it was wholly disbanded, and men whose thoughts were never elevated above the contemplation of loss and gain, were out in the newspapers with their calculations to show *exactly* how many dollars and cents would be saved annually by the "disbandment" of this safe and sure auxiliary in our defence.

Sir, said Mr. P., can anything be more deplorably characteristic of the prevailing spirit and passion of the age?

If he was right on these points, we were not in a condition to warrant the folding of our arms in security. We were at peace, but we might be involved in war, we knew not how soon. This we did know, that the only sure way to keep it far off, was to provide for its approach.

He was not disposed to give color to any unnecessary alarm, but he felt bound to say that the indications of a speedy and pacific termination of the difficulties growing out of the Northeastern boundary question, which seemed to have strongly impressed other minds, had wholly failed to impart any fresh confidence to his. He feared that they would prove to be specious rather than substantial. He could not help feeling strongly upon this subject of national defences, because he had witnessed the deep lethargy in which the spirit of the nation, easily roused to every thing else, had seemed to slumber here. Within the last five years war clouds had lowered most portentously upon our horizon, and on one or two occasions seemed ready to burst, and scatter far and wide the calamities of that dreadful scourge. What was the effect upon the Government and the country, when, upon a question of *money*, we were upon the eve of a war with one of the most powerful and gallant nations upon the face of the earth. Did we manifest a willingness to apply our money in preparation for the contest. No. He would be ashamed to state, there in his place, the total want of any thing like adequate means of defence. In Congress there was as usual no want of patriotic demonstration in the way of speeches, but they were followed by nothing like decisive action. Through the country there appeared to be a profound repose, and blind trusting to luck in the face of admitted imminent danger. In the beneficent ordination of Providence, and through the energy and wisdom of that very extraordinary man who always proved equal to great occasions the impending danger was happily averted. How had it been more recently, when, for a long time, there had been a quasi war along our whole border, from St. Johns to the lakes? In what condition did the evening of the 2d March, 1839, find the country? In what state did it find us in our places here? Like the nation generally—calm and undisturbed. Senators then present would not soon forget the scene that followed the arrival of the Eastern mail that night. The stirring report soon passed around the chamber, "there has been a battle upon our eastern frontier; the blood of our citizens has been shed upon our own soil." A change came over the spirit of our dream. Every countenance was lighted up with high excitement. We were at last, when the strange spell of fancied security could no longer bind us, roused as from the delusion of a charm—we woke as from the trance of years—as from a dream we opened our eyes upon a full view of the nearness and magnitude of our danger. He would never forget the bearing on that occasion, nor the burning words of an honorable Senator on the other side of the chamber, not now in his place. That Senator seemed to feel that by our culpable neglect to provide the means of defence, we had

almost invited aggression, and that we ought ourselves to take our places in the fiercest of the eddying storm, which it was then supposed had already burst upon our border brethren. Every word, as *then* understood, he believed was heartily responded to. What was done? All that could be under the circumstances in which we were placed. The constitutional term of one branch of Congress had but a few more hours to run. There was little time for deliberation, but we showed that there was one contingency in which we could merge every thing like party, and present an unbroken front. We passed a bill placing at the disposal of the President the whole militia of the United States, to be compelled to serve for a term not exceeding six months—to raise fifty thousand volunteers—to equip, man, and employ in active service all the naval force of the United States—and to build, purchase, or charter, arm, equip, and man such vessels and steamboats on the Northern lakes and rivers, whose waters communicate with the United States and Great Britain, as he shall deem necessary." This fearful responsibility was cast upon one individual. This vast command, with ten millions of dollars to make it effectual, was committed to the sole discretion and patriotism of the President. No man who loved his country could but deprecate the necessity of placing such tremendous and fearful powers in the hands of one man, however wise and disinterested.

He warned the people against another such crisis. Sooner or later it would come, and perhaps unattended by that good fortune which had borne us thus far on in peace. At all events, it was the most fatal temerity to depend upon it, and neglect the necessary preparation. What should be done? Where lies the most obvious, the most unquestionable and cheapest means of defence to the country? These were questions to which the memorialists undertook respectively to respond. He did not of course propose at this time particularly to examine the report of the board of officers to which he had before adverted, but would take the liberty to remark that the positions assumed were much more questionable than the ability with which they were discussed and defended. There was at least one point of agreement between the memorialists, and one in which he thought both were right. It was as to the entire insufficiency of land or stationary defences to protect our harbors, and secure the approaches to them. That this had been fully illustrated in more than one instance, even when wind and sails had been relied upon, he might safely assert, without intending to discuss the relative power of floating and stationary batteries. How much less the security now, with the general and free application of the propelling power of steam, it required no particular science nor military knowledge to judge. He referred particularly to the passing of the castle of Crohenburgh, and the successful attack of Lord Nelson, upon Copenhagen in 1801; to the attack upon Gibraltar, by the French and Spanish in 1782; and the assault upon Vera Cruz, and the reduction of the strong castle of San Juan de Ulloa a year ago last November; all of which had been cited on both sides in the controversy between stationary and floating defences. Gentlemen would be more safe in reading the official and authentic accounts, and drawing their own conclusions, than in trusting to the statements of the supporters of one system or the other. Mr. P. said he would by no means dispense with the stationary fortifications upon which we had so much relied; in many positions they were indispensable, but, in his judgment, the system, with us, had already been carried too far in respect to the number of works, and in some instances, as to the vast expense incurred upon individual works. Our country was too broad—too immense in its sweep to rely upon



such works. No man would be so visionary as to indulge the chimerical scheme of making a seacoast of more than 3,000 miles impervious to attack. There were not only a great number of harbors and roadsteads along the coast that could not be thus defended, but almost innumerable indentations, affording safe anchorage, from which a superior naval force might land any number of troops, notwithstanding the entire completion of the most extensive plan of stationary fortifications that was ever yet dreamed of. They could not be compelled to land under the guns of a battery, or to place themselves within its range. Unless they should be met successfully upon their chosen element, they would take their own time and pretty much their own place, to disembark. The contest would then be in the open field between our armies and theirs—generally between the steadiness and thorough discipline of their veteran, but mercenary regiments upon a foreign soil; and the valor and desperate energy of ours, fighting, it might be, within sight of their own homes.

That we were now sadly deficient in the means of defence, was a fact admitted by all. In that condition we ought not to remain. We should provide our harbors, that hold out the greatest temptation to an invading foe, in addition to the stationary fortifications, with the best floating defences known to the world. We should make, as soon as it can be done consistently with other demands upon the revenue, our navy equal at least to one-sixth of that of Great Britain. We should never go for conquest. We had, in territory, and climate, and resources, all that any people should desire, and the armament alluded to was believed to be as large a proportion as England would ever be able to spare from other points, and detach to our seas. Consistently with the demands upon the revenue! He would not say that. He held that, with the wealth and great resources of the country, we should make our revenue equal to *this* demand. Want of funds should hereafter be regarded as no good excuse for neglecting defences universally admitted to be indispensable for the honor and safety of our country. If the current revenue was not sufficient for these and other objects of like magnitude and necessity, let articles of luxury and ornament, such as wines and silks, which are annually imported and consumed in the country, be taxed to raise the means. The navy of Great Britain consisted at present of five hundred and fifteen ships and twenty-three steamers, and mounted more than twenty-two thousand guns; France two hundred and thirty ships; America fifty-two in all, and thirty-eight effective, mounting only three thousand guns. Now the least with which we should be satisfied in our naval armament, was an increase, at the lowest, of fifty per cent. In the meantime, we should provide for an organization of the militia, to be efficient and uniform throughout the United States.

Thus prepared, with our large cities in a suitable state of defence, and with six hundred thousand disciplined citizen soldiers, so enrolled and organized as to admit of being promptly mustered and called into the field, we should be ready for that which, under such circumstances, would hardly be pressed upon us.

He would not be understood as admitting for a moment, that we would not, even unprepared as we now were, expel in a little time any invader that should venture to set foot upon our soil. He entertained not a doubt of it, because the same spirit that in 1793 prompted the celebrated decree of the French Convention, which proclaimed that—

“From the present moment, till that when all the enemies shall have been driven from the territory of the Republic, all Frenchmen shall be in permanent readiness for the service of the armies; the young

men shall march to the contest: the married men forge arms and transport the provisions; the women shall make tents and clothes, and wait in the hospitals; the children shall make lint of old linen; the old men shall cause themselves to be carried to the public squares to excite the courage of the warriors, and preach hatred against the enemies of the Republic; the battalions, which shall be organized in every district, shall be ranged under a banner with this inscription: ‘The French nation risen against tyrants.’”

The spirit which rendered that people invincible, and crowned their arms with such a succession of splendid victories over the veteran troops of the allied powers, as astounded the civilized world, would animate our countrymen from one extremity of the Union to the other; but let every man consider what dreadful sacrifices must precede the final result, if war come upon us in our present defenceless state. While our citizens were taking their places under the folds of the banner which the Republic would throw over them—a slow process at best for want of organization—our gallant little army, to which the country looked with pride and confidence, would be sacrificed; the blood of our most valuable citizens would perhaps stain the pavements of their own streets; and more property be destroyed in one commercial city, than would now defray the entire expense of perfect protection and security. This, Mr. P. said, was what might happen; and was that against which moderate patriotism and ordinary prudence should provide. He indulged the hope that when this storm of politics should have passed away, the Senate would take the subject up in the spirit and with the enlarged views of statesmen acting for the common interest of their common country.

Mr. PRESTON remarked that he thought our system of fortifications had been commenced on too gigantic a scale. They ought to have been completed at less expense than had been already laid out upon them. And those which were completed were so large that it was difficult to man them.

Our whole inland frontier ought to be regarded as not needing fortifications. We were there, every where in the attitude to invade, and not to be invaded; for we could there, in any case, inflict tenfold more on any enemy than they could on us. And there was another consideration which ought to have more weight than had been heretofore given it in relation to our defences, and it was this: we were not a conquering nation, and were not to be conquered. The country was absolutely and intrinsically incapable of being conquered. The whole question, therefore, in relation to our defences, was a question of annoyances; and on that principle, and on that alone, the whole system of our defences ought to be projected and arranged. We should have merely *points d'appui*, to retreat to and refit.

Mr. P. proceeded to remark that an entire revolution was now going on, in regard both to inland and maritime defence, by the agency of steam. Railroads would enable large masses of troops to be thrown suddenly on any point of the country that might be assailed. A still greater revolution was going on upon the sea; so that forts, he thought, would be soon rendered unnecessary; and the struggle must be maintained in the open sea. The great difficulty would be the want of men in our navy; and he thought it would be our policy always to have as many ships as could be manned. We ought to have a power to redress all wrongs, wherever given, promptly on the spot, in all parts of the world.

Mr. P. urged this subject further, with much earnestness, and declared the present state of our defences to be deplorably deficient, beyond the knowledge and the belief of most of the members of Congress.

Mr. CALHOUN said all these subjects must come up in their order at the next session, and he should therefore not enlarge upon them now. He thought our present system of fortifications had been so far extended as to make us cautious in our future expenditures, and he hoped that spirit would govern in our appropriations the present session. Our system of fortifications and other defences would of course require to be changed; there must be great changes both in the art and the armament of war, and the attention of Congress ought to be directed especially to the navy in both its branches—that propelled by steam, as well as that by wind. This arm of our national defence should receive the most kindly attentions of Government, and could not be neglected with impunity.

The committee were now discharged from the further consideration of the memorial.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15.

The following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. WILLIAMS, was considered and agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to communicate to Congress, as early as may be at the next session, a list of the officers of the navy of the United States, denoting the periods of their admission into the public service, the dates of their present commissions, and the time of their actual service at sea, and at yards, stations, and hospitals, in separate columns, since January 1, 1824.

THURSDAY, JULY 16.

#### FLORIDA WAR.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, the bill providing for enlisting 2,500 volunteers to serve for two years in the Florida war, was considered, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Finance, reported the bill making appropriations for the army for 1840, with sundry amendments; which were ordered to be printed.

The bill providing for the enlistment of 2,500 volunteers to serve in Florida, was read a third time, and passed.

FRIDAY, JULY 17.

#### ARMY APPROPRIATIONS.

The Senate, on motion of Mr. WRIGHT, proceeded to consider the bill from the House making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1840.

Mr. W. proceeded to offer, severally, and explain various amendments from committee, some of the first of which have been agreed to without dissent—

The appropriation (\$12,000) for the purchase of an island in the Mississippi, near Fort Snelling, was debated by Messrs. CALHOUN, WRIGHT, TAPPAN, BUCHANAN, and BENTON, and agreed to, by ayes 18, noes 17.

The provision by committee, authorizing the President to suspend certain works at his discretion, was opposed by Mr. SOUTHARD, and advocated by Mr. WRIGHT, till the recess.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. WRIGHT explained the object of the third section of the amendment—which was that, in case the means of the Treasury, from any cause, should not be sufficient to meet all the appropriations made by Congress, the President should be authorized to postpone the expenditures for repairs and improvements at the Springfield armory; for repairs and improvements at the Harper's Ferry armory; for the purchase of saltpetre and brimstone; for continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Fort Leavenworth, at Fort Wayne, at Fort Smith, at Plattsburg, and at Fort Jesup, or such and so many of them, or such portions of each,

as in his judgment, after careful examination and inquiry, the condition of the treasury shall demand and the public interests will best permit; such postponements, in each case, to be merely temporary, or until the close of the next session of Congress.

Mr. SOUTHARD opposed this amendment in a speech of considerable length. He was willing to make the appropriation for whatever might be necessary; but he was utterly opposed to allowing the matter to depend on the Executive will. It was in short, transferring the powers of Congress to the hands of the Executive. It would be a step unknown to the legislation of any country, and was without precedent, and utterly uncalled for.

Mr. HUNTINGTON expressed his regret that his health would not allow him to enter into this subject as fully as he desired. He condemned the amendment as virtually transferring to the President a power which ought never to be entrusted to any Executive. He did not mean to insinuate that the President would abuse it; but it was not proper to trust such irresponsible power with any man, however virtuous or exalted he might be. It was a temptation too strong. It gave the power to the President to select favorite objects, and at such spots as best suited his inclination. For that reason, he considered it both dangerous, and, under the circumstances, unnecessary.

Mr. LUMPKIN took a different view. The discretion was limited to an intervening period, in case the money should not be in the Treasury. He could not see any alarming features in the measure.

Mr. WRIGHT defended the amendment at length, declaring the committee had no other alternative than to make it discretionary with the President, who could best tell, from the information in his possession, where the expenditures might be suspended with least injury to the public service.

Mr. SOUTHARD spoke for near an hour against the amendment in all its phases, and replied to the arguments of Mr. LUMPKIN and Mr. WRIGHT. The readiness with which gentlemen were willing to give discretionary power to the Executive was matter of regret to him. "There is no danger," say gentlemen. That was the same siren song sung in Athens and Rome until liberty was lost.

Mr. HUNTINGTON followed in some remarks explanatory to Mr. WRIGHT.

Mr. BUCHANAN said: It seems we are in a most delicate crisis, and that the Republic is on the very brink of ruin. We are on a precipice and are just about to tumble into the yawning destruction beneath. We have arrived at the very point in our career, according to the opinion of my friend from New Jersey [Mr. SOUTHARD] where the republics of Athens and Rome perished; and it would therefore be presumptuous in us to expect to survive much longer. He has informed us that the principle involved in this amendment is that which destroyed Athenian liberty and deprived Rome of her free government. Whilst the Republic was thus threatened with ruin, strange to say, the Senators in fatal security sat unconcerned, reading their newspapers, and writing their letters, utterly insensible of danger.

And what is this great danger? I have heard ruin to the Republic often predicted since I came into the Senate; but never with more force and earnestness than upon the present occasion. But is not all this "ocean into tempest wrought, to waft a feather or to drown a fly?" What is the question now before the Senate? Unfortunately we are very much in want of money, and our Treasury presents "a beggarly account of empty boxes." In this state of affairs, it will depend upon contingencies to which I need not advert, whether there will be sufficient money in the Treasury to pay all the appropriations



for which we have provided. If there should not be, what will be the consequence? Unless this amendment shall be adopted, the President will have unlimited discretion over all the great objects of appropriation, and he may select or reject which of them he pleases. The amendment then is an express limitation, not an extension, of Executive discretion. We take up the general list of appropriations, and select from it what we deem to be the least important objects; and we said to the President, if you have not money to pay all our appropriations then you shall withhold it from these designated objects alone. Your discretion shall be limited, and Congress, not you, will decide how the money must be applied in case the revenue should prove insufficient to meet all the appropriations. Let human ingenuity turn and twist this question as it may, this is the result. The amendment is an abridgment of Executive discretion. We may not have money enough to accomplish all the objects provided for by law; and in such an event, we say to the President that we will designate those objects with which we are willing to dispense.

And this is the whole amendment! And this is the vast stretch of Executive power which may destroy the government! The President, for example, in case of a deficiency of money, is directed to dispense with the appropriations "for barracks, quarters, and storehouses," and for the purchase of "saltpetre and brimstone," and for other objects, which I need not enumerate, and which are not of great and pressing importance. Does not the senator from New Jersey perceive that this is an express limitation on Executive power? Without it, if there should not be money in the Treasury sufficient to accomplish all the objects for which we have provided, the President will have the unlimited power of dispensing with any appropriation which he may please. But we choose to exercise this dispensing power ourselves, and not to confer it on the Executive.

It is true that we might borrow more money; but we think it is wiser to reduce our expenditures than to increase our debt. If we cannot make all the improvements we desire, we will not trust our Executive agent with the discretion of roaming over the whole list, and rejecting such as he pleases. We perform this duty for ourselves by the present amendment, and give him his instructions.

The Senator from New Jersey, with all his ingenuity, cannot make more than this out of the amendment. The President cannot expend more money than there is in the Treasury. If there be not money enough for all the objects designated in our laws, without the amendment, he could divert this money from any one of them, and apply it to another. But we say, and say very properly, that he shall not exercise this power. It is much better that we should adopt this course than either to borrow money or trust to the unlimited discretion of the Executive.

Mr. HUBBARD spoke for some time, and with much zeal, in defence of the amendment. He alluded to the bill which had passed at a prior session, where, at one sweep, discretion was given to the President to raise fifty thousand men and ten million of dollars, and yet nothing had then been said about discretionary power.

Mr. SOUTHARD drew a wide distinction between the time when the country was threatened with a war with one of the most powerful nations of Europe, and discretionary power granted in time of peace, when there was no necessity for it, and when it would be setting a dangerous precedent. Mr. S. said he had two distinct acknowledgments from the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. HUBBARD:] 1st. That the Treasury might be incompetent to meet the expenditures; and 2d. that these items were not in-

dispensably necessary. If (said Mr. S.) that is the ground on which the Senator stands, I put it to him and the whole Senate, whether it would not have been wiser to have stricken out those items, than to leave the matter to Executive discretion? The money was in the Treasury, or it was not. If it was not, why make the appropriation? They had no right to throw the responsibility on the President—it belonged to Congress.

Mr. BUCHANAN did not profess to have any wit, nor did he believe he had any; but if he had, he should be very sorry either "to burn or drown" the Senator in it. His acquaintance with ancient history was not such as to inform him where, when, or how either Cæsar or Alcibiades had destroyed the liberties of their respective countries by a provision similar to this amendment. That might be owing to his own ignorance, which he hoped the Senator from New Jersey would condescend to enlighten.

The Senator (said Mr. B.) has replied to what he calls my wit, but not to my argument. He has wisely passed the latter over. What is the amendment but this? I have an estate, on which I desire to expend \$100,000 in the course of the year. I employ an agent to direct and superintend this expenditure. It depends, however, upon the ability and will of a bank which is indebted to me, whether I shall be able to place the whole amount of this sum in his hands. Under such circumstances, what would a wise man do? He would say to his agent, you shall not exercise the discretion of deciding what particular improvement you will arrest, in case I am not able to furnish the whole \$100,000. This discretion I shall exercise for myself; and, in case of a deficiency of means to accomplish the whole, you shall apply none of my money to such and such improvements, which, although important in themselves, must yield to others of more pressing necessity and greater utility. And, sir, this is the true nature of the amendment now before the Senate; and yet, strange as it may seem, it is strongly urged that it is an extension of Executive discretion! This is the whole amendment, and human ingenuity may be defied to make any thing more of it. What do we say by the amendment to the President? If sufficient money should come in, you shall apply it to all our appropriations; but if it should not, you shall not expend any of it upon those objects of minor importance which we have designated. It is a clear limitation, not an extension of Executive discretion.

The amendment was then adopted.

Mr. TALLMADGE offered the following amendment, and urged the importance of it to the unobstructed navigation of the Hudson river, and the preservation of the public works:

Fifty thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the War Department, in continuing such part of the public works, already commenced, as may be most indispensable for the improvement of the Hudson river, above and below Albany; in dredging and removing obstructions formed in said river, near such works; in making necessary repairs for the preservation of the existing public works on that river; and in providing for the care and preservation of the machinery and other public property connected with the said works.

Mr. WRIGHT said he did not wish to be understood as recriminating upon his colleague; but his position as a member of the committee would compel him, whatever might be his feelings on the subject, to vote against the amendment. He was aware of the importance of the improvement, and of the deep interest felt in it by the people of his State; and were this amendment proposed to a bill making appropriations for works of a kindred character, he would most cheerfully give it his support. But the bill now

before the Senate was one making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1840; while the improvements on the Hudson were of that class of works usually provided for in the harbor bill. Were this to be adopted by the Senate, he could not but anticipate that a multitude of similar amendments would be proposed, which would weigh down this important bill, and finally sink it. Had his colleague been aware of the pertinacity with which applications for similar appropriations had been resisted in the committee, he thought he would not have placed him in the unpleasant position of being compelled to vote against an improvement of so much importance to his State, and one in which his constituents felt so deep an interest.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. BUCHANAN moved to amend the bill by inserting an appropriation of \$6,000 for an outfit for the Minister resident at Constantinople.

Mr. CLAY of Alabama opposed it. He said it was distinctly understood, at the time when Commodore Porter was raised from a *Chargé* that there was to be no outfit, and he hoped that it would not be introduced in this bill.

Mr. BENTON and Mr. WALKER both advocated it.

Mr. SOUTHARD did not like the idea of making outfits years after the post of resident Minister had been created. If the Senator from Pennsylvania would move to place Commodore Porter on the same ground with other Ministers, he would cheerfully give it his support. He thought, at the present juncture, it was all-important to have a competent Minister at the court of the Sultan.

Mr. BUCHANAN spoke from personal knowledge of the inadequacy of the salaries to maintain Ministers in foreign countries.

Mr. CLAY of Alabama called for the yeas and nays, which resulted as follows:—yeas, 19; nays, 15.

Mr. TALLMADGE now offered the following amendment:

"That \$6,000 be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of War, in making the necessary repairs for the preservation of the public works on Hudson river, above and below Albany, and providing for the care and preservation of the machinery and other public property connected with said works."

Mr. T. again pressed on the Senate the necessity of the adoption of the amendment.

The question was taken by yeas and nays, and rejected as follows:—yeas, 13; noes, 21.

Mr. STRANGE moved to amend the bill by appropriating \$5,000 for the purchase of a town lot adjoining the site of the Arsenal at Fayetteville, in North-Carolina.

The question having been taken on the amendment, it was negatived.

Mr. CLAY of Alabama moved to insert an appropriation of \$12,000 for the purchase of an island at the confluence of the St. Peter's and Mississippi rivers.

This motion was debated at some length by Messrs. BUCHANAN, HENDERSON, CLAY of Alabama, WALKER, and others.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 16 to 13.

The question was here taken on agreeing with the committee in vesting the discretionary power in the President to postpone certain expenditures, and adopted.

Mr. STRANGE here renewed his motion to amend the bill by inserting the appropriation of \$5,000 for the purchase of the site adjoining the United States arsenal near Fayetteville. Mr. S. said, so far as appropriations were concerned, it would seem that North Carolina was scarcely known to the Union. On this motion he should demand the yeas and nays.

The question was taken by yeas and nays, when there appeared for it 16, against it 16; so the motion was lost. The question was then taken on the engrossment, and carried.

An act from the House for the relief of the sureties and heirs and representatives of Melancton W. Bostwick, deceased, was, on motion of Mr. BENTON, amended by adding a section for the relief of Mary W. Thompson, widow of Col. Alexander Thompson, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and subsequently read a third time, and passed.

SATURDAY, JULY 18.

Mr. WRIGHT asked to take up the bill from the House making appropriations for the support of the navy for the year 1840. Mr. W. said the House had thought proper to strike out the amendment of the Senate making an appropriation of \$30,000 for the survey of the Southern coast from Appalachicola to the mouth of the Mississippi river, because it was prohibited by a rule of that body from attaching appropriations to any bill that had not not been recommended by the department.

The motion pending was, that the Senate recede from said amendment.

On this motion a very warm and animated discussion ensued, in which Messrs. HENDERSON, SOUTHARD, WALKER, and others, insisted that the Senate ought not to recede.

The debate lasted to a very late hour, when the question was taken on receding, and decided in the negative—yeas 10, nays 18.

MONDAY, JULY 20.

On motion of Mr. DAVIS, it was *Resolved*, That a call on the President be made for a copy of the report of Captain Perry, of the U. S. navy, on lights and light-houses, to be sent to the Secretary of the Senate, and to be printed for the use of the Senate.

#### NAVY APPROPRIATIONS.

A message was received from the House, announcing that the House insisted on its rejection of the amendment of the Senate, (an appropriation of \$30,000 for a survey on the Gulf of Mexico,) and asking a conference by a joint committee, the House having appointed the committee on their part.

On motion of Mr. WALKER, the Senate further insisted on its amendment, and agreed to a conference, authorizing the President *pro tem.* to appoint the committee on the part of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. WALL, a Senate resolution, relating to Colt's fire-arms, (very indistinctly heard,) was taken up, debated, and agreed to.

On motion of Mr. SOUTHARD, the joint resolution authorizing the purchase of Colt's repeating rifle for the use of the navy, was taken up, discussed, amended, so as to extend to other rifles, and ordered to a third reading by yeas 16, nays 12.

Mr. HENDERSON submitted a resolution, calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information as to the protection afforded and intended to be afforded to the commerce of the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. WRIGHT objected, and observed that if the resolution proposed only to inquire into what had been actually done by the Navy Department, he would agree to it; but he could not consent to call on the Secretary to inform the Senate what order was contemplated by the department.

Mr. HUBBARD observed that if the gentleman would address a letter himself to the Secretary of the Navy, he would answer for it that he would get a satisfactory answer.

So the resolution was laid over for one day.

The bill for the support of the army for the year 1840, was received from the House of Representatives, stating that the House had agreed to all the



amendments of the Senate, with the exception of the second and fifth, viz: the appropriation of six thousand dollars for an outfit to the resident Minister at Constantinople, and the appropriation of twelve thousand dollars for the purchase of an island at the confluence of the St. Peters and Mississippi rivers.

Mr. WRIGHT reported back this bill from the committee on finance, observing that the nature of these amendments had been understood by the Senate, having been debated at some length on the previous evening. He felt constrained to move that the Senate recede from the amendments; they were not pertinent to the bill, and had been stricken out by the House, after a long and animated debate. He hoped, therefore, the Senate would recede from its amendments, and suffer the bill to become a law.

Mr. WALKER hoped the Senate would not recede. He thought not to comply with the contract for the purchase of the island might be attended with consequences injurious to our interests and our relations with the Sioux Indians. Important, however, as was this amendment, yet it was not as much so, in his estimation, as the outfit to Commodore Porter. The services of that gallant and distinguished man were known to every Senator, and was the American Senate prepared to make him the only exception to an outfit? He hoped not, and that the Senate would not recede. He thought there was nothing to be apprehended for the bill, and, in any event, a conference might be had as the last resort.

Mr. WRIGHT was not aware that there was any ground of compromise by the conference. Where could they point out a middle ground on which to stand? The amendments must be passed or rejected—and one or the other house must yield! The simple question was, whether the Senate should recede from its amendments, or, by adhering to them, send the bill back to the House at this late hour. He could see no good object likely to follow a disagreement with the other branch, as he thought it would not be likely to yield.

Mr. DAVIS agreed with the Senator from New York that the Senate ought to recede from its amendments. Neither of them were matters of such great moment, as should induce them to run the risk of delaying or defeating the bill. He presumed a delay of a few months could work no great injury to Commodore Porter, and as there appeared a general feeling on the part of the Senate to vote the appropriation, he thought the matter could then be postponed until the next session, and the Senate at once recede from its amendment. There was no ground for compromise on which committees of conference could act.

Mr. HUBBARD said, by the rules of the Senate, if the bill was not signed by 12 o'clock, it could not become a law; the rule was positive that no bill should receive the sanction of the President on the last day of the session; and who could suppose that the bill could go back to the other house and be received here by that time? Besides, there was no sort of probability that the matter could be compromised, and it was safer and better at once for the Senate to yield.

Mr. WALKER insisted there was ground of compromise, and he would suggest a very fair one at once; they could abandon one, appropriate and retain the other; this would be giving the House one item, and the Senate one; and he was disposed to abandon the island and adhere to the outfit. [Mr. WRIGHT, in an under tone, "I am for the island."] Mr. W. then spoke of the justice of placing Com. P. on the same footing with other diplomatic agents, and the vast expense to which he has been subjected when acting as Chargé. Mr. W. thought there was no occasion to abandon either of the appropriations—the Senate ought to adhere to both.

Mr. HUBBARD read the vote in the House to show that it was decisive, and that there was little chance that that body would yield: the vote on the outfit was 54 ayes, 84 noes, and on the purchase of the island 44 ayes, 89 noes.

Mr. WALKER then contended that the outfit stood on the strongest ground, and that the island was voted down by two to one.

Mr. BUCHANAN would not rob Peter to pay Paul. He had introduced the amendment granting the outfit; but, if there was to be any sacrifice, he would prefer that the appropriation for the island should be retained. And he declared in his place that very serious consequences might grow out of the refusal to conform to the contract as made by the Secretary of War.

Mr. PRESTON said, when the subject was discussed at a prior session, he had suggested an outfit, but that suggestion did not seem to have been backed at the time by the friends of the measure. It was said that Commodore Porter came here for the purpose of being made a resident Minister. It was then said by some of the friends of the movement that he only desired advanced rank, by which he could approach the person of the Sultan, as other Ministers had the privilege of doing. The advanced rank was given, and with it the additional salary, and nothing further was said. With regard to the island, there was some doubt about the title, and the compensation for it was four times too much; nay, he might say, ten times too much.

Mr. BUCHANAN said, the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. PRESTON] was much mistaken in his estimate of the value of this island; and if he had examined the documents on the subject which had been presented to the Senate when he was absent from his seat, his opinions of its value would have been very different.

Mr. SMITH of Indiana gave his reasons for voting in favor of receding. It was not from any objection to the outfit, for which he had voted on another occasion.

The vote was then taken on receding, and decided in the affirmative, as follows: yeas 23, nays 9.

The question was then taken on receding from the other amendment, and carried without a count.

TUESDAY, JULY 21.

The residue of the standing committees were discharged from the further consideration of the subjects remaining before them, and leave granted to certain individuals to withdraw their papers.

#### FORTIFICATIONS.

The bill making appropriations for certain fortifications for the year 1840, was received from the House, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance; reported from the committee without amendment, considered by consent, ordered to a third reading and read a third time, and passed.

Mr. RUGGLES submitted a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for statements as to the number of seamen and marines in the United States navy; distinguishing American citizens from foreigners, and those that had not been, from those that had been bred in the fisheries. Objection being made, the resolution was lost.

The bill from the House making appropriations for the Military Academy at West Point, for the year 1840, was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Finance, reported the bill making appropriations for the Military Academy at West Point, for the year 1840, without amendment.

The bill was then taken up, considered as in com-

mittee of the whole, and ordered to a third reading, read a third time, and passed.

Mr. TAPPAN then moved that the Senate adjourn *sine die*. The motion to adjourn was then put and carried; and the President *pro tem.* announced that the Senate of the United States stood adjourned *sine die*.

### MISCELLANY.

**THE BRITISH NAVY.**—In pursuance of our usual practice to offer names and enumerate figures in support of assertions, against which objections have been taken by other parties, we submit a list of the line-of-battle ships possessed by England, which are either at present in active service, in sound and serviceable condition, or capable, with moderate repairs, of being made fit for commission within a reasonable time: and to these we have added the list of ships building. All our line-of-battle ships employed as receiving ships, depôts, quarantine vessels, hospitals, convict ships, or which may be so badly out of order as to require very extensive repairs to fit them for sea, more than twenty in number have been omitted from this list, which is given as a fair statement of the solid strength of the British Navy in the line of battle. On a future day we may offer an equally particular enumeration of the frigates, steamers, and smaller vessels. We would merely observe that our information is derived from authentic sources, and may challenge investigation.

In Commission.—Britannia, 120; Howe, 120; Impregnable, 104; Rodney, 92; Ganges, 84; Asia, 84; Powerful, 84; Thunderer, 84; Vanguard, 80; Bellephophon, 78; Cambridge, 78; Belleisle, 72; Benbow, 72; Blenheim, 72; Donegal, 72; Edinburg, 72; Hastings, 72; Implacable, 72; Melville, 72; Revenge, 72; and Wellesley, 72.—Total, 21.

Demonstration Ships, or Reserve.—Caledonia, 120; St. Vincent, 120; Queen, 110; Camperdown, 104; Queen Charlotte, 104; Agincourt, 72; Cornwallis, 72; Hawk, 72; Hercules, 72; Malabar, 72; Pembroke, 72; and Russell, 72.—Total 12.

In good condition.—Royal William, 120; Nelson, 120; Hibernia, 120; Neptune, 120; Prince Regent, 120; Royal George, 120; Waterloo, 120; Royal Adelaide, 104; Nile, 92; Formidable, 84; Vengeance, 84; Clarence, 84; Monarch, 84; Bombay, 84; Calcutta, 84; Foudroyant, 78; Indus, 78; Achille, 76; Ajax, 72; Wellington, 72; Imaum, 72; Black Prince, 72; Illustrious, 72; Carnatic, 72; and Egmont, 72.—Total, 25.

Repairing, or wanting repairs.—Canopus, 84; Minden, 72; Talavera, 72; Armada, 72; Bellona, 72; Defence, 72; Devonshire, 72; Hague, 72; Minotaur, 72; Pitt, 72; Redoubtable, 72; Sultan, 72; Tremendous, 72; Invincible, 72; Kent, 72; and Medway, 72.—Total, 16.

Building.—St. George, 120; will be launched on the 27th; London, 92, do. on the 29th. Trafalgar, 120; do. in February; Algiers, 110; Royal Frederick, 110; Victoria, (in frame), 110; Albion, (in frame), 90; Prince Albert, 90; Colossus, 80; Collingwood, 80; (nearly planked); Mars, 80; (in frame); Majestic, 80; Superb 80; (in frame); Lion, 80; Irresistible, 80; Hindostan, 80; Centurian, 80; Goliath, 80, (nearly planked); Boscawen, 70; Cumberland, 70; and two ships of 80 guns each, building in India, not yet named.—Total 22.

Total number of line-of-battle ships 96.—*Devonport Independent Telegraph.*

**SHIPS OF WAR.**—The London Times says the French are now building fourteen 100 gun ships, nine of ninety guns, and twenty frigates.

**PROJECT FOR BLOWING UP VESSELS OF WAR.**—A correspondent of the London Times, who writes from Egypt, says that some Americans, who have taken up Fulton's torpedo project for blowing up vessels of war by grenades attached under water, are negotiating with the Chinese for rendering them assistance against the English men-of-war in this destructive capacity. The thing is not a mere speculation, but is known to be in practical existence, and has been ready to be applied in case of an American war, ever since the burning of Washington.

### MILITARY MAXIMS OF NAPOLEON.

**XLII.** Fenquière says that we should never wait for the enemy in the lines of circumvallation, but that we should go out and attack him. He is in error. There is no authority in war without exception; and it would be dangerous to proscribe the principle of awaiting the enemy within the lines of circumvallation.

**XLIII.** Those who proscribe lines of circumvallation, and all the assistance which the science of the engineer can afford, deprive themselves gratuitously of an auxiliary which is never injurious, almost always useful, and often indispensable. It must be admitted, at the same time, that the principles of field fortification require improvement. This important branch of the art of war has made no progress since the time of the ancients. It is even inferior at this day to what it was two thousand years ago. Engineer officers should be encouraged in bringing this branch of their art to perfection, and in placing it upon a level with the rest.

**XLIV.** If circumstances prevent a sufficient garrison being left to defend a fortified town, which contains an hospital and magazines, at least every means should be employed to secure the citadel against a *coup de main*.

**XLV.** A fortified place can only protect the garrison and arrest the enemy for a certain time. When this time has elapsed, and the defences are destroyed, the garrison should lay down its arms. All civilized nations are agreed on this point, and there never has been an argument, except with reference to the greater or less degree of defence which a governor is bound to make before he capitulates. At the same time there are generals, Villars among the number, who are of the opinion that a governor should never surrender, but that in the last extremity he should blow up the fortifications, and take advantage of the night to cut his way through the besieging army. Where he is unable to blow up the fortifications, he may always retire, they say, with his garrison, and save the men.

Officers who have adopted this line of conduct have often brought off three-fourths of their garrison.

**XLVI.** The keys of a fortress are well worth the retirement of the garrison, when it is resolved to yield only on those conditions. On this principle it is always wiser to grant an honorable capitulation to a garrison which has made a vigorous resistance, than to risk an assault.

**LXIII.** All information obtained from prisoners should be received with caution, and estimated at its real value. A soldier seldom sees any thing beyond his company; and an officer can afford intelligence of little more than the position and the movements of the division to which his regiment belongs. On this account the general of an army should never depend upon the information derived from prisoners, unless it agrees with the reports received from the advanced guards, in reference to the position, &c., of the enemy.



## WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY...OCTOBER 15, 1840.

### APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

**LEWIS WARRINGTON**, captain in the Navy, to be a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Navy, from the 7th October, 1840.

**WILLIAM B. SCOTT** to be Navy Agent for the city of Washington, October 8, *vice* **ELIAS KANE**, deceased.

### ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Oct. 8—Col. W. Whistler, 7th infy, Fuller's.  
Captain H. Garner, 3d artillery, Rev. O. B. Brown's.  
9—Capt. J. C. Casey, Com. Sub., Fuller's.  
Lieut. R. F. Baker, 7th infy, do.  
Lieut. W. Eustis, 1st dragoons, Latimer's.  
11—Lieut. W. Alburtis, 2d infy, Fuller's.  
13—Capt. N. C. McCrae, 3d infy, do.  
14—Col. H. Stanton, A. Qm. Gen., do.  
Col. T. Cross, do, Frank. Row.  
Capt. G. H. Crosman, A. Qm., Fuller's.

### PASSENGERS.

**NEW ORLEANS**, October 4, per steamboat *Maid of Orleans*, from St. Louis, Major Hitchcock, Captains Gwynn and Worth, Lieuts. Reeve, Lincoln, Shepherd, and Hetzel, all of the 8th infantry; Dr. Robinson, and sutlers Crolett and Welch. Per steamboat *Louisville*, from St. Louis, four companies of the 8th regiment infantry, bound to Florida.

**CHARLESTON**, Oct. 6, per ship *Lafayette*, from New York, Captain J. M. Hill, United States Army. Per steam-packet *Gov. Dudley*, from Wilmington, Lieut. L. P. Graham, of the army.

**NEW YORK**, Oct. 11, per brig *Montevideo*, from Rio Janeiro, Lieut. A. B. Fairfax, of the navy.

### Communications.

#### FORT WAYNE.

The old site of Fort Wayne, on the Illinois river, was, by order of the Secretary of War, abandoned in the month of June last, in consequence of having proved, during the summer and fall of 1839, to be extremely sickly. The fort (a picket) stood in the immediate vicinity of a small creek, and one and a half miles from the Illinois. The quarters occupied by the four dragoon companies stationed there, were placed directly on the bank of this creek, and on a small rising ground a short distance from it. Between the river and the creek mentioned is a low cane bottom, (subject after heavy rains to overflow,) and the decomposition of vegetable and other matter, which ensues from the exposure of this damp bed to the action of the heat, increases the prevailing diseases—fever and ague, and intermittent fever.—Four dragoon (E, F, G, and K, 1st.) and one infantry (E, 4th.) companies were stationed there during the summer of 1839, and the sick report ranged from sixty to one hundred and twenty—almost two entire companies. This lasted from July till October. The new site selected for Fort Wayne, and which we now occupy in tents, is seventeen miles north, and two west of the old fort, and is, in every point of view, the very best that could have been chosen. It is the most healthy, and, at the same time, productive part of the whole west line of Arkansas, and places Forts Smith, Gibson, and Wayne, about equi-distant apart,

some seventy to seventy-five miles. It is also some seventy miles to the proposed fort on Spring river, and about the same from thence to that proposed to be erected on Marias des Cygne; from this latter to Fort Leavenworth it is some seventy to eighty miles, and a like distance from Leavenworth to Table Creek; so that all the forts built, building, or proposed to be built, on the west line of Arkansas and Missouri, will be equi-distant, or nearly so.

The inhabitants of Washington county were much averse to the removal of Fort Wayne to this part of the country, and did all in their power, in the way of petitions and remonstrances to the commanding General and Secretary of War, to have it located to the south of this, or left where it was; pleading their pretended great exposure and fears of the Indians, &c., when, in fact, the true cause was, the loss they sustained in losing a good market for the sale of their produce, (as old Fort Wayne was to them in Washington county,) and tends also to the depreciation of the value of lands in its vicinity.

Old Fort Wayne is now entirely abandoned, and we are encamped on the new site; our mechanics, carpenters, citizens, and soldiers, busily engaged in raising temporary quarters to get into ere the cold weather sets in; and had we but a steam saw-mill at work, which we have been employed in raising some twenty miles from this place, for over a year, lumber would be forthcoming, and we should soon be snug for the winter. All the frames of our officers' and soldiers' quarters are up, and only want lumber to be finished off. The climate here is delightful, and few on the sick report, save those whom we brought sick from the old fort. Produce is plenty and cheap. Whiskey, too, is awfully abundant, and a great drawback. The soldiers will drink it; and it is most pernicious in its effects, being of the worst possible kind, and sold very cheap.

An exchange of companies of the dragoons was made in June last—E, F and K going to Leavenworth, and companies A, C and D being transferred from that post to this. All is perfectly quiet in the Indian country around here, and of the movements of the Indians we hear nothing.

FORESTER.

#### THE LATE LIEUT. COL. J. GREEN, U. S. A.

At a meeting of the officers of the army, serving at Fort Brooke, East Florida, on occasion of the death of Lieut. Col. GREEN, 6th infantry, Brigadier General ARMISTEAD, U. S. A., was called to the chair, and Lieutenant G. W. F. Wood, adjutant 1st infantry, appointed secretary.

Major HOFFMAN, Captain BROWN, Captain CADY, Lieutenant EASTON, and Lieutenant HENDRICKSON, 6th infantry, being appointed a committee for the purpose, reported the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That it is with feelings of profound regret that we have received information of the death of Lieutenant Colonel GREEN, late commander of the 6th infantry, which, by this sad event, has lost an officer whose best exertions were devoted to its interests, and whose heart was with its welfare, and who, in the service to which he had given nearly THIRTY YEARS of his life, has left none but will retain a willing remembrance of his virtues.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with his family and relatives in the loss they have sustained, which, to those who by it are made parentless, is irreparable.

*Resolved*, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the proceedings be sent to the family of the deceased, and to the editor of the Army and Navy Chronicle for publication.

W. K. ARMISTEAD, *Brig. Gen. U. S. A.*  
 WM. HOFFMAN, *Major 6th infantry.*  
 G. DEARBORN, *Major 1st infantry.*  
 JACOB BROWN, *Captain 6th infantry.*  
 B. L. BEALL, *Captain 2d dragoons.*  
 ALBEMARLE CADY, *Captain 6th infy.*  
 W. W. S. BLISS, *Assist. Adj. General.*  
 LYMAN FOOTE, *Surgeon U. S. A.*  
 JOHN B. PORTER, *Assist. Surg. U. S. A.*  
 S. B. THORNTON, *1st Lieut. 2d dragoons.*  
 JOHN H. KING, *1st Lieut. 1st infantry.*  
 L. C. EASTON, *1st Lieut. 6th infantry.*  
 EDWARD JOHNSON, *1st Lieut. 6th infy.*  
 GEO. W. F. WOOD, *Adj. 1st infantry.*  
 T. HENDRICKSON, *2d Lieut. 6th infy.*  
 A. J. FIELD, *2d Lieut. 6th infantry.*  
 B. C. EDES, *2d Lieut. 6th infantry.*  
 JAMES BELGER, *Adj. 6th infantry.*  
 GARRETT BARRY, *2d Lieut. 1st infy.*  
 JOHN H. HILL, *2d Lieut. 6th infantry.*  
 JOHN R. EMORY, *2d Lieut. 6th infy.*  
 EEWARD S. OSGOOD, *2d Lieut. 6th infy.*  
 ED. H. FITZGERALD, *2d Lieut. 6th infy.*  
 JOHN C. TERRETT, *2d Lieut. 1st infy.*  
 LEON. WETMORE, *2d Lieut. 6th infy.*

### **Domestic Intelligence.**

**LIEUT. W. K. HANSON.**—The following account of the late gallant affair between thirty-five men under Lieutenant W. K. Hanson, 7th United States infantry, and a superior force of the enemy, will be read with interest. It enters into detail more fully than any of the accounts heretofore published, and changes the impression which was at first made, that that active and able officer was compelled to fall back upon his post. Fighting against such unequal odds, and with such signal success in compelling the Indians to retire, left him master of the field, and manifested the indisposition of the enemy to renew their contest with his brave little band. Lieutenant Hanson is the same officer who so promptly captured *forty-seven* Indians last summer at Fort Mellon, on his learning the treacherous conduct of their comrades to Lieutenant Colonel Harney, at Caloosahatchie.

"Lieutenant Turner was proceeding from Fort Walker to Waka-hoo-tee, where he discovered a large body of Indians in the open woods. He wheeled his horse, as he supposed unperceived by the enemy, but no sooner had he done so, than four or five rifles were fired at him; and turning round to look from whence they came, he saw Indians in pursuit of him. He returned to the post from whence he had started, loosing cap, saddle-bags, &c. He was, however, determined to prosecute his journey, and started again on another road, where he discovered a similar body of Indians, in a like manner, apparently in council in the pine barren. He was again fired upon and pursued by several warriors, and again escaped. He took the news to Waka-hoo-tee, when Lieutenant W. K. Hanson left the post with thirty-five men. He had not proceeded more than a mile and a half, before he found the enemy's signs. Whilst examining them, he was fired upon from a dense hammock, by what was supposed to be about forty rifles. One of his men fell dead; another was wounded. He ordered his men to retreat to the pine trees. During which time, he was pursued by the great body of the Indians, who were firing upon and attempting to outflank him. He had retreated about four hundred yards, when he continued to return the fire in beautiful style. One Indian was shot dead

from the top of a tree, and another was seen to fall from a log where he was standing, with his piece supposed to be directed to Lieutenant Hanson, who would inevitably have fallen, but for the cry of one of his men, 'Lieutenant look to your left—he will kill you.' He immediately stepped behind a pine tree, and the ball passed so close to him that it drew blood from his temple. After maintaining the position he had taken for about thirty-five minutes, and firing nine rounds of cartridges, the Indians skulked into the hammock. Lieutenant Hanson's men then came out and dared them to the fight;—many were seen on dead logs crowing like cocks, and offering every other inducement to bring the red gentlemen out again. There were three times the force, but they felt disinclined to renew the firing. Thus were upwards of one hundred Indians defeated without the aid or assistance of any other than his own little band. His coolness and determination is much to be commended, and adds another laurel to the wreath of the gallant regiment to which he is attached, (the 7th infantry.)

"It is supposed that it was not the intention of the Indians to kill Lieutenant Turner. Their object was to massacre the command of Lieutenant Hanson, which must have been the case, but for the gallant conduct of its leader. Too much praise cannot be lavished on such men. Captain E. S. Hawkins heard the firing at Waka-hoo-tee, and started with a detachment of men. When he arrived at the battle ground, the firing had ceased. They charged the hammock together, but the Indians were gone."—*St. Augustine News, Oct. 2.*

**ACCIDENT.**—We have received the following account of an accident, which we publish, as follows:

"A truly lamentable accident occurred at Fort Barker, Middle Florida, on the 14th August last. Private HENRY S. PHILLIPS, of Captain J. R. B. Gardener's company (F), 1st United States infantry, loaded an old cast iron rifle barrel very heavily, using sand instead of wadding, to ascertain what load it would stand, and how loud a report it would make, when, against the urgent remonstrance of several soldiers of the company who were standing by, and without the knowledge of any officer, he touched it off with a short piece of ignited lightwood, whereupon the barrel bursted with a tremendous explosion, and the poor fellow fell a victim of his own rashness. The captain, with assistant surgeon Cruttenden, were at once on the spot, and had the wounded man gently conveyed to the hospital on a hand-barrow. There was a wound in the left temple, from which protruded a mass of brains, &c., &c. The man having a wonderful profusion of thick hair, the doctor found this a great impediment to his examination of the wound, but removing it and feeling inside of the skull, discovered a metallic substance full three-fourths of an inch below the bone, and on extracting it proved to be a piece of the barrel that had been wrenched off, measuring four inches in length, one in breadth, and one-fourth in thickness, having the transverse curve of the barrel, and a longitudinal curve with a rise of one inch made by the explosion, and weighing two ounces and six drachms. It penetrated with the smooth side down and lengthwise. The sufferer bled profusely; his skin and pulse remained good, and his breathing free. Owing to a remarkably strong constitution, entirely unimpaired by drink, (for he was the pattern of sobriety,) aided by the skilful and unremitting attention of Dr. Cruttenden, Phillips lingered in a state of insensibility, except the day following, when he had a slight glimmer of reason, until sun-set September 17th, when he expired as calmly as an infant falling asleep; and was interred with the honors of war at the following dawn. And his friends—for their locality being unknown, this is



penned with a view of meeting their eyes—may rest assured that in his last moments he received all the kindness the most earnest care and attention could bestow. HENRY S. PHILLIPS was twenty-two years of age, five feet six inches high, light complexion, grey eyes, auburn hair; born in Maysville, Ken.; by occupation a tailor; was enlisted February 8, 1838, at New Port, Kentucky, by Captain Denny, to serve three years. Thus says his descriptive roll, but it is believed he was born in Pompey, New Jersey. For the information of his friends, northern papers will please copy.—*Ibid.*

*From the Sherbrooke (L. C.) Journal.*

THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.—A few days since we met with a gentleman from the State of Maine, who informed us that, on the 5th ult., a party of surveyors under Captain A. Talcott, United States commissioner, left Canaan, Vermont, for the head waters of Connecticut river, for the purpose of tracing the sources of that river, and also the sources of the Magalloway river. A branch of the party, to which our informant belonged, proceeded through Bury, and are now examining the sources of Arnold river, at the head of Megantic lake, where they expect to meet their companions from the head of the Connecticut. The party are then to proceed along the dividing highlands to the Kennebeck road. Another party, under Professor Renwick, have proceeded to the Ristigouche Bay, from whence they are to trace the highlands agreeable to the treaty, and expect to meet the first party in the vicinity of the Kennebeck road. A third party, under Major Graham, is employed in running the meridian line from Mars Hill.

It was mentioned, a short time since, that the head quarters of the British troops, in the lower provinces, were about to be removed to Frederickton, New Brunswick, the command in chief having devolved on Sir John Harvey. The Frederickton Sentinel speaks of the removal as a matter long resolved on, on account of the important position of New Brunswick as regards the boundary, and says it has been made just now, as the appointment of a civil Governor to Nova Scotia gave opportunity for so doing, without giving any cause of remark to the American Government. Frederickton is nearer the scene of possible danger, in case of any renewal of border difficulties. The Sentinel also mentions an intention of erecting a barrack at Woodstock, twelve miles from the American posts at Houlton.—*Ibid.*

The rope walk at the United States navy yard in Charlestown, is said to be the most perfect establishment of the kind in the world. It is 1200 feet long, with granite walls, slate roof, and iron window shutters. The work is done with an enormous steam engine, by which the hatcheling, dressing, spinning, and almost every other operation in making a rope or cable, is done. About one hundred of the spinning, hatcheling and dressing machines, are in one room, in operation by steam. By the spinning of hemp in a machine, a more even thread and consequently more perfect rigging and cables are formed. At this rope walk, we understand the principal rigging for the navy is or can be made.—*Boston Atlas.*

AN OLD ONE.—A newspaper published at Malta says "we have recently had in the harbor of Valetta one of the oldest ships in existence. It was the Indus, a French vessel, built in India in 1718, and therefore now one hundred and twenty-two years old. The hull seems as if it would still last many years."

## Domestic Miscellany.

*From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

### U. S. ARMORY, SPRINGFIELD, MASS

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., October, 1840.

Messrs. Editors:—Among the many objects of interest within the reach of a traveller in our Eastern States, the armory at this place stands conspicuous, for the magnitude of its operations, the ingenious division of labor which exists in it, and the great beauty of its position on the Connecticut.

I know of but few places which exceed it in this last respect, the land owned by the Government contains about 100 acres, divided into two parts; one of 60, upon which the armories and part of the workshops and other public buildings are situated, built around an open square; the other of about 40 acres, lying three-fourths of a mile distant upon Mill river, the name of which sufficiently indicates the uses to which it is applied by the Government. The two are connected by a strip of land of two rods in width used for a street, formerly owned by the Government, but which has lately been retroceded to the State, for the convenience of those who have built upon it, and to restore the road to State jurisdiction.

The piece of sixty acres lies in the rear of the town, upon a plain whose elevation is 153 feet above the average level of the Connecticut. The grounds are well laid out, and the view from them of the village below, built with excellent taste; of the Connecticut about a mile distant winding through a fertile valley; and of the bold hills beyond, which in all directions mark their tops upon the horizon; is alone worth a visit to Springfield. \* \* \* \* \*

The population of the town is 11,000, the chief villages of which are Chicopee Falls, containing a population of 3,000, and Springfield numbering six or seven thousand. This place owes its first impulse to the establishment of the armory here in 1795. The State at that time agreed to abandon to the General Government all jurisdiction over such amount of land not exceeding 600 acres, as should be purchased for the uses of an armory, and under this agreement the 100 acres have from time to time been purchased; the piece of 60 acres at \$10 an acre, and the residue afterwards at prices as little proportioned to its present value. The General Government exercises exclusive jurisdiction over this land under the same clause which grants it over the District of Columbia, and of course State officers cannot officially enter upon it, even to serve process. Some embarrassment results from this rule. \* \* \* \* \*

This armory and the one at Harper's Ferry were established at their present locations on account of the water power, a circumstance which, since the application of steam to similar objects, would no longer influence the Government in the selection of an armory. The soil being light and thin at Springfield, upon the hill, it does not hold the water, and the arms are not exposed to the influence of heavy dews and fogs; in this view, the place seems admirably suited for their preservation. How it is in this respect at Harper's Ferry, I did not think to inquire when at the latter place. General Washington recommended Harper's Ferry, which now is but little suited to the purposes of an armory, unless it is an advantage to be out of the reach of an enemy. It is equally out of the reach of its friends; it would be difficult, however, to effect an alteration in the locality, even if the cost of manufacture were enhanced beyond its present price, which is well known to be 25 per cent. greater than at Springfield. The health of Harper's Ferry does not equal that of Springfield. A friend, some time ago, looking over

the establishment there, remarked, that the men (who were young) appeared to look well; a person in the works observed, "they do, but all who are a little older lie there," pointing to the graveyard. A change may have happened in this respect since the fact was related to me.

For each establishment an annual appropriation of \$180,000 is made, and occasionally appropriations for specific objects, such as the erection of a new building, or for an additional purchase. These are the only public establishments of the kind in the country. There are seven or eight private ones.

The amount of expenditure in 1838, at Springfield, was \$186,250 88, for which the Government manufactured 15,000 muskets, costing \$11 84 each; 15,035 screw drivers, costing 7 cents each; 18,905 wipers, costing 13 cents each; 5,335 ball screws, costing 35 cents each; and 34,443 flint caps, at 1 cent each. During the year there were employed from 260 to 270 men daily, all of whom, excepting 1 superintendent, 1 master armorer, 1 paymaster, 4 clerks, and 9 inspectors, receive pay by the piece, and they are enabled to make at from \$40 to \$60 per month, depending upon the nature of the employment and the degree of skill necessary. A fair day's work among the first class of laborers would produce \$2 per day; 2d class, \$1 90; 3d class, \$1 80; and so descending to the 9th class, producing \$1 30 per day. They labor but 10 hours. Seldom have I seen more substantial looking men than these. Those who live on the public grounds (composed chiefly of salaried officers, have no right to vote; they are provided with very neat dwellings built around the public square. Some of the workmen have been 30 years at the establishment, and are indispensable to its existence, so superior are they as mechanics, and so well drilled in all the details of their employment.

In January, 1839, it was determined that a change should happen in the fiscal year of the establishment, so that it should end with September following instead of December, and the reports of expenditure and manufacturing last made included only three-fourths of the year. The amount laid out during that period, was \$121,064 88 in the manufacture of arms, and for machinery \$6,705 31. 10,000 muskets were made during that period, and a large amount of the appendages needed in their use. The expenditure for machinery was very large, owing to a change which happened in the construction of the musket, which will form the subject of a future letter.

The whole number manufactured from 1795 to the close of 1839 being a period of 45 years, was 437,460. Composed of 253,300 bright, and 185,160 brown; besides which in former years a few short guns, carbines and pistols, were made, and large quantities of muskets have been from time to time repaired.

The master armorer, Mr. Thomas Warner, has just kindly consented to go over the establishment with me on Monday; after which upon my return to the city, I expect to be able to give you a relation of the process of manufacture; it is truly wonderful. I am told there are from twelve to fifteen hundred distinct operations in the fabrication of a single musket. I have never seen public men so willing to oblige a stranger, as those connected with the establishment.

Yours, &c.,

G. B. B.

My letter giving you a general account of the armory at this place, contained a promise to describe a change made during the present year in the construction of the musket.

In 1830 some arms were imported by the General Government from France, and among them a French

musket for the infantry of the line of the model of 1822, manufactured at the Government armory at Mutzic.

Col. Bomford, then on Ordnance service at Washington, referred them to Col. Lee, then superintendent of the armory at Springfield, Mr. Thomas Warner, the master armorer there, and Lieut. Tyler, for the purpose of being examined and compared with the arms made at our national armories, so as to ascertain the points of difference in model and quality of workmanship, and the advantages and disadvantages on these heads, and as regarded their relative expensiveness. The master armorer at Harper's Ferry was to be associated with them in the inquiry.

Col. Bomford stated that a revision of our standard model might be desirable, but that it should not be frequently or hastily made; yet still "that it must be made at intervals either long or short, or the progressive improvement of the age must be passed by unheeded."

In December of that year the examiners made a report of their proceedings, in which they speak of our former ally as "the warlike nation of France, the quality of whose arms is believed superior to any manufactured in Europe."

With these prepossessions in relation to the subject, it may be supposed that the musket of the French model, which differed from ours in many respects, was deemed superior by the examiners, and a very elaborate report was made, containing some interesting matters, and recommending many changes.

Many of these were subsequently determined upon by the Commissioners having charge of this subject, in the Ordnance department, and the French musket, with slight variations, was adopted as the future model.

In 1839 the manufacture of machinery suited to the new musket commenced, and at the same time the old stock was being worked up, but the industry of the place has been gradually directed to the change. At present the various parts of about 5000 muskets of the new model have been manufactured, and probably 1000 muskets will be put together this month, and 1200 every other during the year.

In 1834 the first pattern from the new model was made at Harper's Ferry; how far they have progressed in the manufacture there since, I am not well informed, though I am inclined to think that none have been constructed.

The increased precision and uniformity in the construction of the several parts of the musket, constitute another improvement of equal value with the one above noticed. To so great perfection are these qualities brought, that from the separated portions of any quantity of these arms, the same number of muskets may be made up indiscriminately, the re-union of the same members in the same instrument being entirely immaterial.

Under the old plan the several parts of the musket resembled, in a rough state, others of the same kind, but they were carefully finished and fitted together, without reference to their capability of being applied to any other instrument than the one for which they were finished.

I understand that the French and English both proceed upon the old plan, having tried the new one and rejected it; but here it has proved to be sufficiently successful owing to the precision which has been reached in the work.

These changes have created an entire revolution in the establishment; the effect of which has been to diminish for a time the number manufactured, though it will enable them to work with more facility hereafter in the production of an instrument far superior to the old one.

The English musket (the Queen's arms) has not been adopted in this country because it is two pounds



heavier than ours, and is in other respects objectionable; ours carried eighteen balls to the pound; theirs only fourteen.

It would occupy too much of your time to enter with minuteness into all the changes which were made after this report, so that only the principal ones will be pointed out.

It was objected against the old musket that "the soldier was burned or injured by the fire and powder thrown from the vent of the musket on his immediate left; this was owing to the pitch of the vent, which was some three degrees above the axis of the bore, and consequently above the plane of the pan, so that there was nothing to arrest the discharge from the vent. The French musket on the contrary is pitched at an angle of seventy-eight degrees, with a vertical plane passing through the axis of the bore by which the vent is so inclined downwards that the fire proceeding from it is thrown directly against the bottom of the magazine or pan, and finally expends itself against the sides, so that the soldier escapes both injury and inconvenience."

The difficulty has been remedied in the new musket, and the vent now receives a conical shape, which lets in the powder from the pan more easily. Its shape was formerly cylindrical. The advantages of the former shape were discovered, it is said, by accident. Buonaparte, after one of his battles, observed that many of the muskets missed fire, and, upon inspecting them, ordered the vents to be widened, and the armorer was obliged to use on the ground an instrument like a punch, (smaller at the point than above,) which gave the vent a conical shape, and this was afterwards adopted permanently. The same instrument is still used instead of the hole being drilled into this shape; for the punch closes up the surrounding iron in forming the vent, and prevents its being blown out.

Important changes have also been made in the lock. The tumbler and sear were formerly made of iron, case-hardened; now they are made of steel, which is harder throughout and more durable. Only the exterior of the iron was hardened by that process; and when the coat was worn through, the rest of the metal yielded with great rapidity, and was soon unfit for use.

In the old musket, the battery was rapidly destroyed by the action of the flint, owing to the angle which the face of the battery made with the seat, and to the form and strength of the battery spring. The angle of the French, just referred to, was less than that of the American, and the battery spring much better from the length and width of its branches, and from the manner of turning the elbow, which described the arc of a larger circle.

The battery, since the change, plays uniformly and freely, and receives the shock of the flint so as to produce the greatest quantity of fire. One flint, I am told, will ignite the powder three or four hundred times.

The barrel has been strengthened near the breech, and its weight, which was formerly four pounds, has been increased to four pounds two ounces and a half. Its length, which is only forty-two inches, has not been altered to correspond with the French, which is only 65-100 of an inch longer. It is secured to the stock with bands, which may be removed by the hand. A hammer was necessary on the old construction, in the use of which the soldier would batter his musket. The bands are held by springs; they were formerly driven down and fitted hard. The ramrod, instead of being fitted tight to the wood, is now held by a spring which secures it at the bottom. It may be more conveniently handled, and is no longer subject to be held tight or loose as the wood expands or contracts. The form of the stock is slightly altered, it having received more bend.

The bayonet of the old musket not being elastic throughout, the barrel was liable to be bent, because the bayonet did not yield sufficiently to a blow. This is now corrected, and the elasticity is divided through the whole length of the blade. This is produced by extending very much the length of the fluted part, which formerly ran back only seven or eight inches from the point. The bayonet is now secured by a band, in addition to the simple socket with which it was formerly held; and although it may be removed with great convenience, it is less liable than formerly to be thrown out of its place by a shock.

These are some of the principal changes which now occur to me after the verbal explanation which was made, accompanied with an inspection of the old and new instrument, and a slight examination of the report, the language of which has been occasionally used. The most unpractised eye perceives the value of these improvements.

Possibly, hereafter, they may adopt the percussion lock, which, I am told, has lately been introduced into the French arms; the subject is now under consideration. Some objections exist to the change.—Damp weather affects the cap, which would render the arms inefficient in a morass; two movements would be required in loading instead of one. Now, the powder in the cartridge answers to prime and to load; whereas if a cap were used, two motions would be necessary—one to get the cap and fix it, and another to load—and a change would be essential in the discipline of the army.

The length of my letter forbids the suggestion of such reflections as occur to me in relation to the subject. It is an important one, inasmuch as the musket for the infantry of the line constitutes "the base for the construction of all the other fire-arms." I have been surprised that our reviews do not lay hold of this matter, especially since this thorough change, and present it with the minuteness and skilfulness which are due to the subject. I hope in my next to be able to give a short account of the process of manufacture.

Yours, &c.,

G. B. B.

#### THE SCREW vs. PADDLE WHEELS.

A new principle of propulsion in the case of steamers has recently been introduced in England, and subjected to the test of experiment. It is the screw, in lieu of paddle wheels. The *Archimedes*, a three-masted schooner of 240 tons, is constructed on this principle, and has attracted much attention. It is admitted on all hands that she performs tolerably well; and the inventor and owners appear to think that nothing can surpass her. At any rate, they have challenged any low pressure steamer to run with her a distance of 500 miles on the open sea, for a purse of £1000. A description of the *Archimedes* is thus given in the *Inverness Courier*:

The *Archimedes* is rigged as a smart three-masted schooner, with her masts raking; her length is 125 feet; average draft of water, 10 feet; capacity, 240 tons; power of engines, 80 horses. We take from the *Courier* the following description.

The mode of propulsion may be said to be by a portion only of the Archimedian screw. When the vessel was first tried, a full turn of that species of screw (like a patent oorn screw on a central straight paddle) was employed. The inventor afterwards for the sake of compactness, introduced the double-threaded screw, with half a turn of each thread, as more applicable to this vessel, although he rather prefers the other. This is of iron, and is fixed in an opening on the run of the vessel, above the keel, and about ten feet forward from the rudder. The screw works transversely with the keel, radiating the water all round, as it turns with a backward movement.

Its diameter is five feet nine inches, and the length fore and aft about five feet. It almost appears incredible that so small a portion of machinery could propel a vessel of such length; but the hold it takes of the water, and the velocity with which it turns, are the elements of its power. It is quite under the surface, and is therefore invisible by spectators, either on board or on shore. It is worked by a spindle forming its axle, which runs fore and aft, and is connected with the steam engine, the velocity being acquired by a combination of spur wheels and pinions. Each revolution of the larger wheel turned by the cranks of the engines, gives, by the multiplied power, five and one-third revolutions of the screw, which consequently, revolves at the rate of from 130 to 150 turns in a minute, according to the speed of the engine. In consequence of the powerful stream thus propelled against the rudder, the ship is actually found to obey the helm much more readily, and to be therefore more under command in steering, than either a common steam or sailing vessel; so that she can easily turn round in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or  $1\frac{3}{4}$  of her own length, while it is well known that an ordinary steamer cannot do so with the paddles in less than six times her length. The shafts of the steam engine work fore and aft, the cranks turning transversely, so as to communicate the power directly, by cog wheels, to the screw; and there is one considerable advantage arising from this arrangement of the machinery, namely, that the cylinders, and in fact the whole weight of the engine, rests immediately over the keel, where the vessel is the least liable to straining or twisting from the effects of undue pressure. The larger wheel is toothed or cogged with horn-beam timber.)

The action of the screw is different from the operation of "sculling," in the particular that in sculling there are but two motions, the chief force being derived from the lateral; whereas the screw exerts an equal degree of power for every part of its surface towards the periphery in the direction of the radii. The successive columns of water as fast as presented, are forced away by the act of rotation, pretty much as the earth is turned away from the mould board of a plough. The action of the screw may be said to bear the same relation to "sculling," which the use of paddle wheels does to the ordinary mode of propulsion by oars.

The Archimedes has made several trips, and works well. Her speed is not quite so great as that of first rate steamboats in calm weather. But this is believed to result from the fact, that her engines being on a new principle, and made by an inexperienced engineer, the full power of the boat is not developed. The nominal power of the engines is eighty horse power, but in reality they do not work up to more than sixty.

One of the greatest advantages of this invention, as applicable to all descriptions of shipping, is the circumstance that the screw may be thrown out of gear in two minutes, and the vessel be put under sail alone. The screw is then turned by the motion of the vessel; but the drag is not more than half a mile in ten. Even the drag itself admits of being removed, as provision is made for totally unshipping the screw and bringing it upon deck.

The advantage of the screw over paddle-wheels in ocean steamers, it will be readily seen, must be very great. The leaning over of the ship often throws one of the paddle wheels out of water, and immerses the other too deeply. The screw is always in the water. The saving of fuel will be considerable, as the fires may be extinguished on board a ship propelled by the screw, and the vessel used as a sailing ship when the wind is full and fair. As a vessel of war the advantages would be palpable. This opinion has been expressed by officers of the royal navy, who

have witnessed the performance of the Archimedes. When it is recollected that this invention is yet in its infancy, and that the Archimedes is the first vessel on a large scale that has been constructed on the new principle, we may readily infer that the introduction of the screw in the construction of steamers, is destined to work an important change in one of the most essential features of naval architecture.

The London Nautical Magazine takes ground decidedly against the screw as a means of propulsion. From the number of that work for September, we copy the following:

**PADDLE WHEEL versus SCREW. Trial of strength.** A few days ago the following experiment was made in the river to test the power of the Archimedian screw, as compared with the common paddle wheel, in presence of Mr. Fawcett, the eminent steam engine builder of Liverpool; Mr. Barnes, and other gentlemen. The Archimedes with Mr. Smith's screw propeller, and the William Gunston tug-boat, with common paddles, were lashed together, stern to stern, but with an interval between them of from twenty to thirty feet. The former vessel has two engines of twenty-five horse power each; the latter two of twenty.

The Archimedes was employed to tow the William Gunston with her engines and paddle wheels in a state of rest, and this she did with ease; the object of making this preliminary trial being to ascertain that the working efficiency of the screw was not impaired by the relative position of the two vessels. The steam was then let on to the engines of the William Gunston, and a fair trial of strength commenced between them. In a little while the Archimedes was seen to have lost all power over her rival: a minute or two more and the William Gunston was tugging the Archimedes after her in spite of the superior engine power employed on the opposite direction; and in spite also of the aid of her much lauded screw propeller—at first slowly, and as it were intermittingly, but at a constantly increased rate of speed, till at last it reached the usual tug-boat speed of from eight to nine knots per hour. M.

So complete and convincing an experiment as recorded in the above extract from the Mechanics Magazine, (vol. 32, p. 149, No. 885 for July,) must indeed have been a most interesting sight; the result of which has fully confirmed our opinion of Mr. Smith's invention, as being one of those that are theoretically most ingenious, but in practice deficient. In the midst of the laudatory accounts of the doings of the Archimedes, which followed her all round the coast like so many wonderful *tales* (that is *tales*), we briefly recorded our opinion among our "Shakings," and that too in spite of her beating an old Government steamer at Liverpool. We ask then where is the power of the Archimedes to contend with the ocean wave? And "echo answers where!" Let her keep to still water, and Mr. Smith's propeller will prove as good in practice as it has in theory. We understand it is being adopted on canals.

Major General Sir James McDonnell of the British army arrived in this city on Saturday, in the steamer North America, from St. John's, and took lodgings at the Tremont House. This gallant officer is colonel of the regiment of Coldstream Guards, now in Canada. No man in the army has attained a higher elevation of character in all those rare qualities which constitute the soldier and the gentleman. The Duke of Wellington decided that the prize of five hundred pounds sterling, which was left by the will of some gentleman to be bestowed upon the officer who signalized himself for bravery above all others at the battle of Waterloo, should be awarded to Sir James McDonnell.—*Boston Atlas*.



"THE BRAVEST MAN IN THE BRITISH ARMY."—The present tranquil state of the British provinces affords an opportunity to many of the officers now stationed there, to make a visit to the United States. Among the more distinguished we may mention Major Gen. McDonnell, who commands the Brigade Guards now in Lower Canada; Lieut. Col. Maxwell, of the 36th regiment, stationed in New Brunswick, and others. The former gentleman is the officer to whom the Duke of Wellington awarded the £500 left by a person in England to the bravest man in the British army. The following are the facts of this remarkable circumstance: Our readers will recollect that a short time since we published an anecdote illustrative of the high opinion entertained by the Duke of Wellington of Sir James McDonnell, the substance of which was, that a short time since the Duke was waited upon by the executors of the will of a deceased gentleman, who had left £500 to the bravest man in the British army; they called for purpose of handing him a check for that amount. The Duke thanked them for the compliment, but declined receiving the money, alleging that the British army contained many as brave men as himself, but requested them to defer the matter for a few days, becoming arbiter in the matter; at the appointed time, his Grace named Sir James McDonnell, who defended with the most chivalrous bravery, the post of Hugeront, being the entire key to his position. The executors accordingly repaired to Sir James and acquainted him with the Duke's decision, and tendered him the money. Sir James expressed himself highly flattered, and observed that although he should not attempt to dispute the Duke's decision, yet that he should share the money with Sergeant Major Fraser of the Coldstream Guards, who assisted him to close the gates of Hugeront, when the French troops rushed upon the position with such irresistible force that the gates of the farm were burst open, and the fate of the position appeared doubtful.—*N. Y. Albion.*

**WAR BY STEAM.**—While America is yet sleeping, France, as well as England, has awakened to the necessity of organizing a steam navy. Louis Phillippe has sanctioned an ordinance appropriating nearly six millions of dollars for steam packets from Havre to New York; from Bordeaux and Marseilles to Havana; from St. Nazaire to Rio Janeiro; and three secondary lines to Mexico, Central America, and Buenos Ayres. The arrangements comprise 14 ships of 450 horse power each, and four of 220.

All these steamships are to be men-of-war. England, too, assigns her naval officers to the command of her mercantile steamers. Alexander of Russia is also aroused to the importance of this subject. All the great European powers are aware that when the next great war takes place, that nation which can bring into action the most powerful steamships will be mistress of the seas. The steam frigate, by the facilities which it possesses for attack, and changing it at pleasure; of advancing and retreating at will; of turning to its own benefit the circumstances of wind and tide which embarrass its adversary; and applying its superfluous power to those most destructive of all weapons, steam cannon, can annihilate a fleet of vessels which depend on the caprices of the elements. Nations that aspire to rank as first powers, must be constantly increasing their steamers to keep pace with their rivals; and perhaps the final effect may be, that the means of warlike destruction will become so overwhelming, that the nations of the world, conscious that a single defeat would be utter ruin, will refrain from playing so hazardous a game; and thus, paradoxical it may seem, the increase of the destructive powers of war may preserve universal peace.—*New Yorker.*

### Military Intelligence.

Major General MACOMB arrived at Buffalo, on the 12th inst., from Detroit.

**2d Artillery.**—A couple of recruits were injured on Monday, 12th inst., at the barracks, by the premature discharge of a field-piece. One lost an arm and another a hand. The accident is attributed to the malconstruction of the cannon.—*Buffalo Commercial Advocate.*

**2d Infantry.**—A detachment of 150 recruits, for the 2d regiment of infantry, arrived at Savannah, October 12, in the ship John Cumming from New York. Their destination is Florida.

Lieut. Penrose, 2d infantry, commands this detachment, and the following officers accompany him: Lieuts. Tilden and Bacon, 2d infantry; Lt. Johnson, 3d infantry; and Lieuts. Sherman and Field, 3d artillery.

Capt. W. Fulton, and Lieuts. Sibley and Thayer, 2d regiment dragoons, with 150 dragoons, arrived yesterday in the ship Charles from Baltimore, and are destined for Florida.

**7th Infantry.**—A detachment of 222 recruits, under the command of Lieut. J. Van Horne, 3d infantry, were embarked on Monday last, at New York, on board the ship General Parkhill, for Pilatka, Florida, via Savannah. Lieut. Stephen, 3d infantry; Lieuts. Sherwood and Humber, 7th infantry; and Lieut. Lugenbeel, 8th infantry; were attached to the command.

**8th Infantry.**—Two full companies of the 8th regt. U. S. infantry, arrived at Savannah, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from New York, en route for Fort King, via St. Augustine. They departed the next morning for St. Augustine in the steamer Charleston, Capt. Bonnell.

Col. W. J. Worth, com'g.

Asst. Surgeon Cuyler.

Asst. Surgeon Van Buren.

1st Lt. and Adj't. J. T. Sprague.

1st Lt. Larkin Smith.

1st Lt. Lucius O'Brien, A. A. Q. M.

1st Lt. William C. Browne.

2d Lt. William B. Hayward.

2d Lt. Grafton D. Hanson.

2d Lt. W. Johns.

2d Lt. Wardwell.

2d Lt. Folsom.

Lt. Benham, of the Engineer Corps.

The detachment had an agreeable voyage from New York, and seemed anxious for their campaign.

Eight companies of the 8th regiment, U. S. infantry, have, ere this, arrived at Tampa Bay, from St. Louis, via New Orleans. Col. W. J. Worth, the gallant commanding officer of that regiment, passed through Savannah, on the 10th inst., with the two remaining companies, on their way to St. Augustine, where they will remain some two weeks, and then proceed to Tampa.

### NAVY.

#### ORDERS.

Oct. 5—Lieut. J. Mattison, Receiving ship, New York.

7—Mid. T. H. Stevens, navy yard, Washington.

8—Mid. T. H. Patterson, do. do.

Mid. R. B. Riell, naval school, Philadelphia.

Lieut. J. A. Winslow, leave three months, having returned from coast of Brazil on sick ticket.

P. Mid. R. Wainwright, coast survey, under Lieutenant Powell.

9—Commander C. K. Stribling, navy yard, Washington.

Lieut. T. P. Green, Receiving ship, Boston.

P. Mid. J. L. Worden, ship Relief.  
 10—Purser G. R. Barry, steamer Fulton, vice G. F. Sawyer, ordered to the Yorktown.  
 P. Mid. J. J. Guthrie, Receiving ship, Norfolk.  
 Mid. T. B. Huger, naval school, Philadelphia.  
 12—Capt. L. Rousseau, detached from command of frigate Macedonian, and leave three months.  
 Assist. Surg. J. S. Messersmith, steamer Fulton.  
 Passed Assist. Surgeon D. S. Green, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.  
 P. Mid. N. G. Bay, Receiving ship, New York.  
 P. Mid. W. A. Bartlett, D. McDougall, and E. G. Parrott, detached from brig Consort, and to continue under Lieutenant Glynn, in constructing charts, &c.  
 P. Mid. J. C. Henry, detached from schooner Flirt, and three months leave.  
 13—P. Mid. J. J. Forbes, navy yard, Washington.  
 Mid. J. K. Duer, frigate Macedonian.  
 Mid. R. H. Getty, ship Levant.  
 Mid. J. N. Morris, West India squadron.  
 Mid. L. R. Law, detached from ship Levant.  
 Master W. Vaughan, Hospital, New York.

### Naval Intelligence.

#### U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.

The captain and officers of the United States ship of war Preble, visited the garrison at St. John's, New Brunswick, on the 1st instant. The 69th regiment was on the ground, and executed a number of difficult movements with admirable steadiness and precision.

It is reported that orders have been issued to prepare for sea the new sloops Yorktown and Dale, both lying at the Norfolk navy yard. It is believed that they are both destined to the Pacific, one under the command of Commander J. H. Aulick, and the other under Commander C. Gauntt.

Schooner Wave, Lieut. Com'g J. Rodgers, sailed from Havana, Sept. 29, on a cruise.

WEST INDIA SQUADRON.—Ship Levant, Commander Smoot, arrived in Hampton roads, Oct. 7, from New York. The Levant left her anchorage off the naval hospital on the 9th, and proceeded up to the navy yard. She will take the place of the Vandalia, in the dry dock, in two or three days, for the purpose of undergoing some repairs before proceeding on her voyage to the West Indies.

Ship Warren, Commander Jamesson, at Pensacola, Oct. 3, preparing for sea.

The ship Concord, at Boston, has been taken to supply the place of the Erie, the latter requiring repairs. Commander W. V. Taylor, late of the Erie, has leave of absence; some of the other officers and the crew of the Erie have been transferred to the Concord.

The Concord sailed from Boston for New York. Officers: *Commander*, Wm. Boerum; *Lieutenants*, Wm. S. Walker, James T. McDonough, H. J. Hartstone; *Acting Master*, John Mooney; *Surgeon*, Geo. W. Codwise; *Purser*, John C. Holland; *Assistant Surgeon*, J. W. Taylor; *Passed Midshipman*, R. L. Love; *Midshipmen*, John Brooks, C. S. Cooper, John P. Decatur, C. S. Throckmorton, —Crocker; *Sailmaker*, Isaac Whitney; *Carpenter*, D. C. Mellus.

EAST INDIA SQUADRON.—The command of this squadron has been assigned to Com. John Downes, at present in command of the Boston navy yard. It is to be composed of the frigate Constellation and sloop of war Boston.

OFFICIAL NAVAL REGISTER, FOR 1840.—  
 A few copies for sale at this office. Ap. 2.

### MARRIAGES.

In New York, October 8th, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, by the Rev. Wm. Starr, J. R. M. MULLA-NY, U. S. navy, to MARGARETTA J., second daughter of the late NATHAN AMES.

In Boston, Lieut. JAMES H. CARLETON, of the 1st regiment dragoons, U. S. A., to Miss HENRIETTA TRACY, daughter of HENRY LORING.

In Baltimore, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 13, by the Rev. Mr. BACKUS, Lieut. CHARLES H. M'BLAIR, U. S. navy, to FANNY, daughter of the late JOHN DUNCAN, Esq., of Carlisle, Pa.

### DEATHS.

In Detroit, on the 4th inst., Lieut. D. H. TUFTS, of the 4th regiment artillery, U. S. A.

At Mobile, on the 25th Sept., Mrs. H. C. BAZEAU, widow of the late Capt. BAZEAU, of the U. S. army.

At Smithfield, N. C., Miss OLIVIA EAGLES, step daughter of Lieut. J. H. WINDER, U. S. A.

#### REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS AND PATRIOTS.

At Cincinnati, on the 17th June, in the 88th year of his age, HENRY ROGERS. The deceased was a native of New Jersey, and entered as a volunteer in the American army, in the early part of the war of the Revolution; and never laid down his arms until peace was declared in '83. Throughout life has been a poor but honest man—a devoted friend to his country and her institutions.

In Franklin county, (Penn.) on the 24th June, JOHN JONES, aged 110 years and 6 months, having been born at Worcester, (Eng.) on the 24th of December, 1729.

In the Almshouse, at New Haven, (Conn.) PHILIP CLYME, long well known to our citizens, under the cognomination of "Old Clyme," aged 96 years. Clyme was a Hessian soldier, brought to this country among the mercenary forces of the British crown, during the war of the Revolution. Some venial fault, an act of accidental intemperance after great fatigue, or something of the kind, brought him to the drum head, and he was sentenced and suffered the punishment of 800 lashes, under the barbarous code of British discipline. Recovering from this, he determined on revenge, and for that purpose conspired with some others a plan to desert. They were detected, and Clyme again underwent the savage inflictment of 1200 stripes—from the effect of which, after a long time, he recovered. Still determined in his purpose, he made another and successful attempt to escape, aided by a farmer's wife in Putnam, N. Y., who shielded him from his pursuers. He afterwards entered the American army, and served to the conclusion of the war. He has since resided in this town, where he accumulated a little property, brought up a family, and was a hard-working, industrious man, until his strength failed him.—*New Haven Herald*.

#### MILITARY EQUIPMENTS.

Just received from France a case of GOLD EMBROIDERIES, &c., consisting of Embroidered SWORD BELTS, COLLARS, CUFF and SHIRT ORNAMENTS, for uniforms for Military Engineers; also, a complete assortment of EPAULETTS, for Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, and Colonels, and for sale, cheap for cash, by  
 J. SMITH FRASER.

N. B. Military and Topographical Swords just received.  
 Sept. 3—tf

#### OFFICERS' UNIFORMS.

THE JEFFERSON WOOLLEN COMPANY manufacture and keep on hand a supply of sky-blue cassimere, for officers' uniform overalls, of approved quality and color.

Orders may be addressed to the agent of the Company at Brownville, Jefferson County, New York; or to D. Stinson & Co. 60, Greenwich street, city of New York, and will receive prompt attention.  
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